'Ham' Vigil

Milwaukeeans in National Test

MILWAUKEE radio amateurs were among some 50,000 in the United States and Canada who participated in an annual field day sponsored by the American Radio Relay league, Hartford, Conn. The base of local operations was a high point near Lake Michigan about one-half mile north of the county line in Ozaukee county. About 60 members of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' club participated in the 24 hour vigil, not all of them for the full time. The purpose was to test emergency equipment owned by the amateurs and to see how many radio contacts could be made with other amateurs. In the event of a civil disaster, most of these emergency units would be put to valuable use.

The fanciest unit was the mobile radio station of the Milwaukee club, station W9HRM/M, built into a one and one-half ton truck. Club members (from left) Fred Zolin, 2443 N. Cramer st.; Charles Wittkop, 19, of 2013 N. 47th st., and William Heberlein, 15, of 2928 N. Murray av., helped man the station through the night.

Unpacking and setting up was the first operation after the hams arrived on Saturday. At the club truck were Thomas Murtaugh (on roof), 15, of 3257 N. Maryland av., and William Herzog, 17, of 5118 W. Washington blvd. Kenneth Eggert, 2615 W. Vliet st., took a cot from a car trunk.

Newspaper Article of 1952 on MRAC participation in Field Day